

Amendment to the Claims:

Claim 1. (presently amended) A method to treat or ameliorate chronic pain comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a Mob-5 modulator or a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a Mob-5 modulator, wherein said Mob-5 modulator inhibits the activity of Mob-5 in said subject.

Claim 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said chronic pain is chronic neuropathic pain.

Claim 3. (cancelled)

Claim 4. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said Mob-5 modulator inhibits or stimulates Mob-5 gene expression in said subject.

Claim 5. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said modulator comprises any one or more substances selected from the group consisting of antisense oligonucleotides, triple helix DNA, ribozymes, RNA aptamers, siRNA and double stranded RNA wherein said substances are designed to inhibit Mob-5 gene expression.

Claim 6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said modulator comprises one or more antibodies to Mob-5, or fragments thereof, wherein said antibodies or fragments thereof can inhibit Mob-5 activity.

Claim 7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said modulator comprises one or more agonists to the Mob-5 receptor.

Claim 8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said modulator comprises one or more antagonists to Mob-5.

Claim 9. (withdrawn) A method to identify modulators useful to treat or ameliorate chronic pain comprising assaying for the ability of a candidate modulator to inhibit or stimulate Mob-5 activity.

Claim 10. (withdrawn) A method to identify modulators useful to treat or ameliorate chronic pain comprising assaying for the ability of a candidate modulator to inhibit or stimulate Mob-5 gene expression.

Claim 11. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 9 wherein said method further comprises assaying for the ability of an identified modulator to reverse the pathological effects observed in animal models of chronic pain and/or in clinical studies with subjects with chronic pain.

Claim 12. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a Mob-5 modulator in an amount effective to treat or ameliorate chronic pain in a subject in need thereof, optionally mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 13. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12 wherein said modulator comprises one or more antibodies to Mob-5, or fragments thereof, wherein said antibodies or fragments thereof inhibit Mob-5 activity.

Claim 14. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12 wherein said modulator comprises one or more agonists or antagonists to the Mob-5 receptor.

Claim 15. (withdrawn) A method to diagnose subjects suffering from chronic pain who may be suitable candidates for treatment with Mob-5 modulators comprising assaying mRNA levels of this protein in a biological sample from said subject wherein subjects with increased levels compared to controls would be suitable candidates for Mob-5 modulator treatment.

Claim 16. (withdrawn) A method to diagnose subjects suffering from chronic pain who may be suitable candidates for treatment with Mob-5 modulators comprising detecting levels of this protein in a biological sample from said subject wherein subjects with increased levels compared to controls would be suitable candidates for Mob-5 modulator treatment.

Claim 17. (withdrawn) A method to treat or ameliorate chronic pain comprising:
(a) assaying for Mob-5 mRNA and/or protein levels in a subject; and,
(b) administering to a subject with increased levels of Mob-5 mRNA and/or protein levels compared to controls a Mob-5 modulator in an amount sufficient to treat or ameliorate the pathological effects of chronic pain.

Claim 18. (withdrawn) A diagnostic kit for detecting mRNA levels and/or protein levels of Mob-5 in a biological sample, said kit comprising:

- (a) a polynucleotide of Mob-5 or a fragment thereof;
- (b) a nucleotide sequence complementary to that of (a);
- (c) a Mob-5 polypeptide, or a fragment thereof; or
- (d) an antibody to a Mob-5 polypeptide

wherein components (a), (b), (c) or (d) may comprise a substantial component.

Claim 19. (withdrawn) A kit for administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a Mob-5 modulator in an amount effective to treat or ameliorate chronic pain in a subject in need thereof, wherein said modulator comprises one or more antibodies to Mob-5, or fragments thereof, and wherein said antibodies or fragments thereof inhibit Mob-5 activity, optionally mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 20. (withdrawn) A gene therapy vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule that encodes Mob-5 or a biologically active fragment thereof.

Claim 21. (withdrawn) A nucleic acid molecule that is complementary to a nucleic acid molecule that encodes Mob-5 or a fragment thereof.

Claim 22. (cancelled)

Claim 23. (previously amended) A method to treat or ameliorate chronic pain comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds an epitope of Mob-5 or a biologically active fragment thereof.

Claim 24. (cancelled)

Claim 25. (withdrawn) A method to treat or ameliorate chronic pain comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound selected from the group comprising antisense molecules, siRNA, ribozymes, and nucleic acid molecules which promote triple helix formation, that specifically inhibit the expression of Mob-5 genes.

Claim 26. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 10 wherein said method further comprises assaying for the ability of an identified modulator to reverse the pathological effects observed in animal models of chronic pain and/or in clinical studies with subjects with chronic pain.